



# PROFILE THEATRE

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## **Profile Theatre is going ON AIR for the 2020-2021 Season** Announcing Generations II, Profile's 23rd Season

PORTLAND, OREGON. July 30, 2020- While COVID-19 continues to limit public gatherings, PROFILE THEATRE will produce its 2020–2021 Season programs **ON AIR**. To remain responsive to the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic, the company is announcing the season in three parts. Fall 2020 promises three full-length audio plays: *Mlima's Tale* and *Las Meninas* by Lynn Nottage and *Hot 'N' Throbbing* by Paula Vogel. Profile is also offering two new podcast series. **Community Profile: Voices from the Real World**, will feature interviews and writing by participants in Profile's affinity spaces for LGBTQIA+ people and Black Women to cultivate their creative voices with award-winning writing mentors. Additionally, Profile will present **Satellite: Beyond the Page**, a podcast full of bonus content including concerts, artist interviews and feature stories that will give audiences a chance to go deeper into the themes of the audio plays and their featured playwrights as they play out in the greater Portland area. Audiences can expect additional program announcements in November and February.

The audio plays *Mlima's Tale* and *Hot 'N' Throbbing* will be free for members to stream for a month or longer, and available to non-members to rent for 24-hours on a sliding scale. *Las Meninas* will be exclusively for members. Community podcasts will be free for everyone to enjoy.

Profile's Artistic Director Josh Hecht notes: "Our 2020–2021 season was intended as the second part of our two-year exploration of Paula Vogel, Lynn Nottage and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and we remain committed to these groundbreaking artists. We've developed a new platform to share their extraordinary work which we're calling *Profile Theatre On Air*. We will deliver full-length audio plays, artist interviews and other content through this platform. Throughout the fall, winter and spring, we will release the first-class storytelling you love through this new digital channel, which you can enjoy anywhere: at home, in the car, or while enjoying Oregon's great outdoors.

I think it's safe to say that Season 23 at Profile Theatre is not what we imagined when we dreamed up this 2-year exploration! Who could have known how radically our world would change and then change again? One thing remains constant: our need for art

that opens our minds and softens our hearts, art that deepens our collective compassion.”

### **ABOUT PROFILE’S AUDIO PLAYS**

***Mlima’s Tale*** is a “beautiful, endlessly echoing portrait” of the African ivory trade and its global impact (New York Times). ***Hot ‘N’ Throbbing*** is a “screamingly funny... painful and poignant” protest piece about the roots of obscenity written during the culture wars of the 1990s (Molly Smith, Arena Stage). ***Las Meninas*** is “an irreverent reclamation of a fascinating piece of history” based on the true story of a romance between a Queen and an African Little Person in the court of Louis XIV (San Jose Mercury News).

***Mlima’s Tale*** by Lynn Nottage, Directed by Reginald L. Douglas

Available October 7, 2020–November 4, 2020

While available, free for members and available to non-members for 24-hour rentals at a sliding scale

***Hot ‘N’ Throbbing*** by Paula Vogel, Directed by Jamie M. Rea

Available November 4, 2020–June 20, 2021

While available, free for members and available to non-members for 24-hour rentals at a sliding scale

***Las Meninas*** by Lynn Nottage, Directed by Dawn Monique Williams

Available December 2, 2020–January 5, 2021

While available, free for members and unavailable to non-members

### **ABOUT PROFILE’S COMMUNITY PODCASTS**

#### ***Community Profile: Voices From The Real World***

Featuring participants from our signature community engagement program telling their own stories of resilience and hope and sharing their writing from this one-of-a-kind community workshop.

***Satellite: Beyond The Page*** will bring artist profiles, concerts, lectures and feature stories from our In Dialogue programming to help you go in-depth into the questions and topics raised by our audio-plays.

### **ABOUT PROFILE THEATRE ON AIR AND MEMBERSHIPS**

***Profile Theatre On Air*** is a new audio platform that will include a series of original audio plays by America’s most celebrated playwrights as well as interviews, community profiles and feature stories. The winter and spring installments of ***Profile Theatre On Air*** will be announced in November 2020 and February 2021. Memberships will be on sale for \$150 starting July 30, 2020 at [profiletheatre.org/membership](http://profiletheatre.org/membership). For more information,

contact the Box Office at [boxoffice@profiletheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@profiletheatre.org) or 503.242.0080.

## **ABOUT THE GENERATIONS II PLAYWRIGHTS**

**Paula Vogel** has written *How I Learned to Drive* (Pulitzer Prize, New York Drama Critics Award, Obie Award, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and many more) and *Indecent* (Tony, Drama Desk, Obie and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for Best Play). Other plays include *A Civil War Christmas*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *The Mineola Twins*, *Hot 'N' Throbbing*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Desdemona*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, and *The Oldest Profession*.

John Simon once remarked that Paula Vogel had more awards than a "black sofa collects lint." Some of these include Induction into the Theatre Hall of Fame, Thornton Wilder Award, Lifetime Achievement from the Dramatists Guild, the William Inge Award, the Elliott Norton Award, two Obies, a Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Award, a TCG residency award, a Guggenheim, a Pew Charitable Trust Award, among others. But she is particularly proud of her Thirtini Award from 13P, and honored by three Awards in her name: the Paula Vogel Award for playwrights given by The Vineyard Theatre, the Paula Vogel Award from the American College Theatre Festival, and the Paula Vogel mentorship program, curated by Quiara Hudes and Young Playwrights of Philadelphia.

**Lynn Nottage** is a playwright and a screenwriter, and the first-and-only woman to have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize twice. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. Her most recent play, *Mlima's Tale*, premiered at the Public Theater in May 2018. In the spring of 2017, *Sweat* (Pulitzer Prize, Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Tony Nomination, Drama Desk Nomination) moved to Broadway after a sold out run at The Public Theater. It premiered and was commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Arena Stage. Other plays include *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, Obie, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play), *Fabulation*, or *The Re-Education of Undine* (Obie Award), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Las Meninas*, *Mud*, *River*, *Stone*, *Por'knockers* and *POOF!*. Upcoming premieres include an opera version of *Intimate Apparel* and *MJ the Musical*, a Broadway musical, featuring the music of Michael Jackson.

Nottage is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award, Merit and Literature Award from The Academy of Arts and Letters, Columbia University Provost Grant, Doris Duke Artist Award, among others. She is an Associate Professor in the Theatre Department at Columbia School of the Arts.

**Branden Jacobs-Jenkins** is a Brooklyn-based playwright. His plays include *Everybody* (Signature Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *War* (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *Appropriate* (Signature Theatre; Obie Award), *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep; Obie Award) and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). A Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre, his most recent honors include the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright from the London Evening Standard, a London Critics Circle Award for Most Promising Playwriting, a MacArthur fellowship, the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, the Steinberg Playwriting Award, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams Award. He sits on the board of Soho Rep and joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin MFA playwriting program in 2019.

### **ABOUT PROFILE THEATRE**

Founded in 1997, Profile Theatre quickly established itself as a leading voice in Portland's cultural scene. In 2010, Profile was awarded the inaugural New National Theatre Company Award from the American Theatre Wing, designed to bring national attention to "the most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape." Profile has twice been recognized by Advance Gender Equity in the Arts for its leadership in the field, and its Diversity and Inclusion Initiative has been profiled in HowlRound. The 2018–2019 season was Hecht's first fully programmed season as Artistic Director and included the commission and world premiere of *(Un)Conditional* by National Medal of Arts Awardee Ping Chong + Company, a community-invested work amplifying the themes of the Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith season, and brought Lisa Kron to Portland for a week-long Playwright's Residency where she developed the film script for *Fun Home*, led a writing workshop for community members and gave a performance of some of her solo work on the Profile stage.

Profile's 2019–2020 season used their unique mission to dedicate their season to an in-depth exploration of a playwright's vision with the first season of *Generations*; a two-season exploration of plays from Nottage, Vogel and Jacob-Jenkins's three different generational vantage points. The mainstage productions of Nottage's *Sweat* (directed by Christopher Acebo) and Vogel's *Indecent* and *Baltimore Waltz* (both directed by Josh Hecht) were all lauded by local critics. Their production of Nottage's *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (directed by Chip Miller) and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's Playwrights Residency in Portland and public performance, scheduled for May and June 2020, were both canceled due to the pandemic. In June 2020, the company released its first serial audio play *Claudia, A Viral Love Story*. Based on a COVID-inspired "recipe" of playwriting "ingredients" provided by Pulitzer Prize-winner *Paula Vogel*, and written by an astounding group of nine playwrights and screenwriters. This original audio play was released for free and can be played via Profile's website and on popular podcast apps.

\*For additional bios or to arrange interviews with artists, please contact Marketing Consultant Jen Mitas. For more information, visit [profiletheatre.org](http://profiletheatre.org) or call 503.242.0080.

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